

Claim 16, line 1, delete "or 15"

Claim 17, line 1, change "any of Claims 14 to" to --Claim 14--;
line 2, delete "16".

Claim 18, line 1, change "any of Claims 14 to" to --Claim 14--;
line 2, delete "17".

Claim 19, line 1, change "any of Claims 14 to" to --Claim 14--;
line 2, delete "18".

Claim 20, line 1, change "any of Claims 14 to" to --Claim 14--;
line 2, delete "19".

Claim 21, line 1, change "any of Claims 14 to" to --Claim 14--;
line 2, delete "19".

Claim 22, line 1, change "any of Claims 14 to" to --Claim 14--;
line 2, delete "19 and 21".

Claim 24, line 2, delete "or 22".

Claim 25, line 10, change "any of Claims 14 to 22" to --Claim 14--.

Please add the following new claims.

A5

--30. An isolated peptide or a salt thereof of a matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) protein or a salt of said matrix metalloproteinase protein, said matrix metalloproteinase protein comprising the following peptide fragments of SEQ ID No: 2: (a) Gly¹⁰⁹ to Arg¹¹⁹, (b) Pro¹⁷¹ to Gly¹⁷⁸, (c) Thr²²⁹ to Leu²⁴² and (d) Asp⁵³³ to Val⁶⁰⁷ and having a maximum molecular weight of approximately 69kDa and is a pro MMP-2 activating factor.

31. An isolated polynucleotide encoding the peptide according to claim 30.

32. The peptide or salt thereof according to claim 30, which is labeled.

33. The polynucleotide according to claim 31, which is labeled.

34. A probe for hybridization comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 33.

35. A process for producing a peptide or salt thereof of a matrix metalloproteinase protein, comprising: